

## FYLDE RURAL DISTRICT

# ANNUAL REPORT

on the

Sanitary and Housing Conditions

for the year

1948

L. FAY, M.D., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

H. GRAHAM, M.S.I.A., Cert. R.S.I.,
SANITARY INSPECTOR KIRKHAM 2226



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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1948

To the Fylde Rural District Council.

## MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I present to you my Ninth Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health. As the Council are aware, my period of office dates from 1st April, 1940.

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

AREA.—The area of the Fylde Rural District is at present 33,264 statute acres.

POPULATION.—The population as per the census, 1931, was 9,217, and the estimated population (1948) 12,510: an increase of 1,390 over 1947.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Population: Registrar-	Genera	ıl's esti	imate, r	nid-19	)48	12,	510
Live Births:—	Total	Male	Female				
Legitimate	202	98	104				
Illegitimate	8	4	4				
	210	102	108				
Birth Rate per 1,000	1948		1947	Mear	for	1943	-47
estimated population:	16.7		20.5		19.9	)	
	Total	Male	Female				
Stillbirths	10	8	2				
Rate per 1,000 total	45		Rate	1947	•••		49
(live and still births)							

117 62 55

Deaths:— Total Male Female

Death Rate per 1,000 1948 estimated population: 9.3		1947 11.6	Mean for 1943-47					
Deaths from puerperal causes-	<u> </u>	)48	1947					
Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	· 1	Nil.	Nil.					
Other maternal causes	•••	Nil.	Nil.					
	1948	1947	Mean for 1943-47					
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	Nil.	Nil.	0.84					
Maternal Death-rate per 1,000 live births.	Nil.	Nil.	o.88					
Death-rate of infants under one year of age :—								
	1948	1947	Mean for 1943-47					
All infants per 1,000 live births	23	26	34					
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	19	23						
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 Illegitimate births		83	_					
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	13	23	-					
Death-rate from Cancer	1.03	2.06	1.62					
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.	Nil.	_					
Deaths from Whooping Cough	Nil.	Nil.						

	1948	1947	Mean for	1943-47
Deaths from Diarr@ha (under				
2 years)	I	Nil		-
Deaths from Tuberculosis (all				
ages)	2	4		-
Death-rate from Tuberculosis				
of the Respiratory System .	0.15	0.17	0.1	r8
Causes o	f De	CATH.		
Disease.		Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)		I	T	2
" (Non-pulmonary)			-	_
Influenza		I		I
Cancer of stomach and duoden	um	2	_	2
Cancer of Breast			I	I
Cancer of all other sites		5	5	10
Diabetes		I		I
Intracranial Vascular Lesions		10	6	16
Heart Disorders		16	17	33
Other Circulatory Disorders		4	7	II
Bronchitis		2	I	3
Pneumonia		2	I	3
Other Respiratory Disorders		I		I
Ulcer of Stomach and Duoden	um	2	I	3
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)		I		I
Other Digestive Disorders				_
Nephritis			3	3
Premature Birth		I	I	2
Road Traffic Accident		3		3
Other Violent Causes		2		2
All other causes		7	8	15
Syphilitic Diseases		I		I
Congenital Malformations and				
Birth Diseases			2	2
		62	55	117

Ambulance Facilities.—The Ambulance facilities for the district are very good.

- (a) For Infectious cases: The Moss Side Isolation Hospital has a Motor Ambulance for conveyance of patients to the Hospital. The Elswick Sanatorium has also a Motor Ambulance for tuberculous patients.
- (b) For Non-infectious Patients; and Accident Cases: A Motor Ambulance for the conveyance of necessitous non-infectious and accident cases is hired by the Council, when required, from the Corporations of Preston and Blackpool.

There are privately owned ambulance services in Wesham, Preston and Blackpool which provide comfortable transport for those who can afford to pay the cost.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.—These services are provided by the County Council and consist of a Minor Ailment Clinic for School Children, which is held every Monday and Thursday morning at Mellor Road, Kirkham, from 10.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

Child Welfare Centres are held at Mellor Road, Kirkham, 2.0—4.0 p.m. each Thursday; and at the Methodist Chapel, Kirkham Road, Freckleton, every Monday, 2.0—4.0 p.m. The staff at these clinics consists of the Medical Officer of Health and Nurse Millner, Lancashire County Council Health Visitor.

Ante-Natal and Post-natal Clinics.—These are held alternate Tuesdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m. A consultant obstetrician is in attendance at each session.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—Use is made of the Dispensary at Elswick Sanatorium. This is under the care of the Medical Officer of that Institution.

School Clinic.—The Medical Inspection of School Children is carried out in all Schools by the School Medical Officer acting under the County Council. One of the advantages of the new scheme is that the Medical Officer of Health for the area is responsible for the School Medical Inspections.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.—Treatment is given at the Preston Royal Infirmary, under a scheme operated by the Lancashire County Council.

The district is largely agricultural and is on the whole a healthy area. There are no occupations which one could term to be prejudicial to health. Employment has been good throughout the year, this is reflected in the continued improvement in the health of the children as demonstrated in routine medical inspections.

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION: There are three Hospitals in the District, and one Sanatorium. The Fylde Joint Hospital at Moss Side, 64 beds, is used for Infectious Diseases. This hospital is used by the following districts: Fleetwood, Poulton, Thornton, Fylde Rural, Kirkham, Lytham-St. Annes, and occasionally by outlying districts.

Patients are not required to contribute towards the cost of treatment. The cost of hospital treatment for infectious diseases to the Rural District for the year ending March 31st, 1948, was £72 os. od.

## PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

There have been no arrangements made by the Local Authority for nursing in the home, but three separate District Nursing Associations operate in the district. Each employs one nurse, and is self-supporting, no financial obligations falling upon the district.

## LABORATORY WORK.

The examination of specimens for the detection of the Diphtheria organism has been carried out at the Preston Royal Infirmary Laboratory. This Laboratory is also used for the examination of water samples and milk samples.

Specimens of sputum are sent to the Elswick Sanatorium for the detection of the Tubercle Bacillus.

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The incidence of infectious disease during 1948 was slight and calls for no special comment. The results of immunisation are again manifest in the incidence of diphtheria in 1948. Three cases were notified but in none of these cases was the diagnosis confirmed.

## IMMUNISATION.

Children Immunised during the period ending 30th, June, 1948:—

Pre-School. School. Reinforcements. 99 45 369

Total number of pre-school children immunised to 31st December, 1948: 393.

Estimated population: 900 Percentage Immunised: 44%.

Total number of school children immunised up to 31st December, 1948: 1,063.

Estimated population: 1,500. Percentage Immunised: 70%

The above figures are satisfactory and compare favourably with the national average. Nevertheless, they can still be improved particularly those relating to the preschool child.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1948

Set out below are particulars of the sampling carried out under the above act in the Fylde Rural District during 1948 by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department.

A total of 65 samples was obtained, 63 being of milk and the remaining 2 comprising 1 whiskey and 1 rum.

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

Sample Result Result

I Informal Deficient 17.6 per cent. solids milk.—not fat; freezing point indicated the presence of 14.0 per cent. extraneous water.

I Informal Deficient 21.1 per cent. solids milk.—not fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 15.3 per cent. extraneous water.

I Informal Deficient 20.0 per cent. solids milk.—not fat. Freezing point indicated the presence of 15.8 per cent. extraneous water.

I Informal Deficient 21.0 per cent. fat. milk. Low in solids—not fat.

All purchased from the same vendor.

Formal samples obtained.

Vendornotified

SAMPLE	RESULT	RESULT
I Formal milk.	Deficient 1.6 per cent. fat. Low in solids—not fat.	Farmer notified
3 Informal milk.	Each deficient 6.6 per cent. fat.	All purchased from same vendor. Vendor notified.
ı Formal milk.	Deficient 13.0 per cent. fat.	Vendor notified

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Smallpox	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Total Cases at All	Under 1.	I-2.	C.3.	3-4·		TII IO-15.	I5-20.	20-35.	35-45.	45-65-	65 and over.	Total Deaths.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Deaths in Hospital
Totals 128 4 22 1 20 1 55 6 2 4 1 1 1 1 19	Scarlet Fever Pneumonia Diphtheria, including Membrane- eous Croup Enteric Fever (including Para- typhoid) Puerperal Pyrexia Cerebro-Spinal Fever Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis Dysentery Encephalitis Lethargica Ophthalmia Neonatorum Malaria Erysipelas Chickenpox Measles and German Measles Whooping Cough Meningitis	21 7					4      						1		15 	

## TUBERCULOSIS.

Notification of Tuberculosis in the Fylde Rural District is, usually, fairly good, and no action has been necessary with regard to wilful neglect or refusal to notity.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district.

The district is under the care of the Medical Officer of the Elswick Sanatorium. Every week notifications of Tuberculosis (if any) are sent to the County Council. The Tuberculosis Officer visits each patient with the Medical Attendant, and, where necessary, domiciliary or sanatorium treatment is given. On the occasion of death, or removal to sanatorium, the dwellings are disinfected.

New Cases and Mortality during 1948.

ACE D	C	N	EW	CASE	S	DEATHS				
AGE PERIODS.		Pulmonary		Non- Pulmonary		Pulm	onary	Non- Pulmonary		
			м.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.
Years.										
0-	•••									•••
I	•••		I		I					
5—	•••	•••		•••			•••	•••		• • •
10	•••			•••	• • •					
15—	•••	• • •	•••	•••	• • • •					
20—	•••			•••		I				•••
25	•••		I	I						•••
35—	•••			I				2		•••
45	•••			2			• • • •			•••
55—	•••	• • •	I				•••		•••	•••
65 <b>a</b> nd	upwar	ds .	•••		•••		I	•••	•••	•••
То	tals	• • • •	3	4	I	I	I	2		
			7 2				3	N	il.	

## Housing.

There are approximately 2,900 houses in the area. Some of these houses are unfit for human habitation and many more need extensive repairs and improvements to bring them up to modern standards. The time has now arrived when a housing survey is indicated and it is anticipated that this will be accompanied by the appropriate action necessary to make defective houses conform with modern standards.

Although over 100 houses have been erected during 1948 in the Fylde there is still considerable leeway to be made up. The cessation of all building for 8 years has resulted in widespread overcrowding.

Your Obedient Servant,

L. Fay, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

## The Fylde Rural District Council

WESHAM.

To the Chairman and Members of the Fylde Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Third Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1948.

During the year there has been some easing of the shortage of labour and materials together with a slight raising of restrictions apertaining thereto, but there are still difficulties and delay in carrying out essential health services. However, solutions must be, and have been found to the various problems, and some of the more normal activities of the department have once again got under way.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Inspector during the year:—

Inspections			<b>5</b> 89
Re-inspections	• • •		304
Other visits			157
Informal Notices	[	92	
No. of Legal Pro	ceedins	ŕS	Nil

## MILK SUPPLY

The coming into operation of the Milk Act, 1944, with its consequent further whittling down of the duties of "Local" Authorities, has again been postponed, and the functions under the various Milk and Dairies Acts and Orders in the area are still carried out by the Rural District Council.

There are approximately 327 cowkeepers in the area and 72 Registered Retailers of Milk. With present staff it is not possible to carry out regular periodical inspections of all the farms within the district and attention has been directed more to those producers who retail their milk without prior pasteurisation. Included in the figures given there are in the Fylde Rural District 23 licensed producers of T.T. Milk and 76 licensed producers of Accredited Milk. These latter are inspected and controlled by the County Health Department with whose Sanitary Officers there exists a most cordial and co-operative relationship.

During the year 4 farms have been granted T.T. licences and 2 farms Accredited licences.

In addition there have been granted by this Council 4 licences authorising the use of the designation Tuberculin Tested in respect of milk retailed in the Fylde Area.

26 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Laboratory of the Preston Royal Infirmary for examination. The following are the results:—

Satisfactory Unsatisfactory

Methylene Blue Test	 17	7
Bacillus Coli	 20	4
Tuberculosis	 22	2
Phosphatase Test	 2	Nil

In the case of unsatisfactory methylene blue and bacillus coli. results, further visits were made to the farms, and, together with the farmer, every effort made to discover the sources of trouble, and to discuss satisfactory methods of overcoming them.

Tubercular samples were reported to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries through the County Medical Officer of Health. In one case no affected animal could be traced; in another, the affected animal was found and slaughtered under the Tuberculosis Order, 1938.

On the whole the milk supply of the district is good. The bulk of it is taken to dairies in large neighbouring towns, and some is Pasteurised in the plant operated in Kirkham.

It is perhaps regrettable that there is so little evidence of the necessary co-operation between the Milk Testing Advisory scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Health Department.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There has been no change in the policy of the Ministry of Food with regard to Centralised Slaughtering and the seven licensed slaughterhouses in the district are still closed. Meat retailed in the butchers shops is brought from the abattoir at St. Annes-on-Sea. The number of slaughtermen licensed in the area was eighteen.

## FOOD INSPECTION.

During the year twenty visits were made in connection with food inspection, and the following goods were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

Oranges .					1,518	lbs.
Apples .					234	,,
Spaghetti				• • •	56	,,
Oats	• • •			•••	15	,,
Tea				• • •	4	,,
Bacon	• • •	• • •	• • •	• • •	2	,,
Macaroni	• • •			• • •	III	,,
Cheese .	• • •	•••		• • •	10	,,
Dried Mil	k	•••	•••	• • •	224	,,
Canned M	lilk		• • •	• • •	24	,,
Semolina	• • •		•••	• • •	45	,,
Butter		• • •	• • •	• • •	50	,,
Canned G	roods (	Miscell	aneous)		59	,,
				-		
		Total			2 152	

#### Bakehouses

There are nine bakehouses in the area. Twenty-five visits were made and the general conditions found to be satisfactory. One informal notice was served and complied with. Other slight shortcomings were remedied upon the attention of the occupiers being drawn to them verbally.

#### FACTORIES

The number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 63. Five informal notices were served; two in respect of insufficient W.C. accommodation; two of unsuitable sanitary accommodation; and one for want of cleanliness. All were satisfactorily remedied and no statutory action was taken. The mill at Freckleton is the only large factory in the district where any considerable number of persons is employed. There has been no difficulty during the year, and the matters referred to the department by H.M. Inspector of Factories have been very small in number.

#### OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades established within the district. Bye-laws were adopted in 1886.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

An effort has been made to secure the abolition of all the privy middens, tipplers and ashpits in the township of Wesham. This effort can claim to have been successful as all have been converted to water closets with one exception and this one has been placed in the hands of a contractor.

As reported last year the figures for the whole area are only approximate and based upon alterations which have taken place since the report of 1945. Accurate figures will only become available as a result of a comprehensive housing survey of the district.

No. of	Middens			 	 638
,,	Pail Closets	•••	•••	 • • •	 157
,,	Fresh Water Cl	osets		 	 1,684
,,	Waste Water Cl	losets		 	 IO
,,	Dry Ashpits			 	 372
,,	Moveable Ashbi	ins		 	 1,444
Conve	ersions to Fresh	Water	Closets	 	 29

## Infectious Diseases

The number of houses visited after cases of infectious disease was 18. Routine enquiries were made and disinfection carried out when required. The disinfecting agent used is Formaldehyde gas. The Council have no apparatus for the disinfection of clothing, bedding, etc., by steam but there is a tentative arrangement for the use of the plant at Wesham Park Hospital in necessary cases.

## MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Two new sites were licensed during the year making a total of fourteen sites within the area which are authorised to accommodate 404 moveable dwellings. There are, in addition, 16 licensed individual moveable dwellings.

The problems and difficulties of carrying out this portion of the duties of the department, under the still unchanged and unsatisfactory law on the subject, will be more easily appreciated when it is considered that these sites and dwellings are placed at various points spread over 33,000 acres of land and, at the height of the summer season, accommodate a population of approximately one thousand two hundred people. A continuous effort has been made to secure the very necessary control in respect of these sites, and over six hundred visits were made in connection with moveable dwellings. A comprehensive survey of all the sites was carried out and several contraventions brought to light. Some sites were found to be seriously overcrowded and steps are still being taken to bring about a remedy. Other matters dealt with included drainage, water supply and refuse disposal.

In a district so closely related to the most popular holiday coast in the country, the problem of moveable dwellings is not likely to resolve itself easily; this is in addition to the fact that the housing position has resulted in many of these sites becoming permanently occupied, the dwellings being "houses" in all but name.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

The Council undertakes the collection of refuse and salvage in all Parishes with the exception of Weeton-with-Preese and Treales-Roseacre-Wharles. The two old vehicles have been dispensed with and replaced by two new 7 cu. yard Karrier Refuse Wagons.

The department now consists of 3 Karrier wagons with 3 men to each vehicle; one man is engaged as Refuse Tips attendant, and another is engaged upon the baling of waste paper and tins, and acts as relief dustman during the holiday period or in case of sickness.

The method of refuse disposal is by controlled tipping and tips are in operation at Wesham, Warton and Singleton.

The urban Parishes of Wesham, Warton and Freckleton receive a once weekly service. In other parishes the collection is once fortnightly. One wagon is employed almost full time for the collection of refuse from a large R.A.F. camp in the district.

In the first complete year with a full complement of men and vehicles the service has run smoothly and well, and the number of complaints received has been negligible.

All salvage collected is brought to the baling sheds at Wesham. Baled paper is sold to the Preston Paper Company, baled tins to Thos. Ward & Sons, Manchester, and baled rags, etc., to Mrs. A. Tarpey, Blackpool

Below is a summary of the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year :-

MATERIAL	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Baled Paper	57	4	2	358	4	3
Baled Tins	48	4	2	78	7	2
Baled Rags, etc.	3	14	0	30	15	4
TOTAL	109	3	0	£467	6	9

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The number of houses in the district with a direct supply of water from the mains of the Fylde Water Board is 2,280 (figures kindly supplied by the Water Board). The number of houses supplied from other sources, i.e., wells, etc. is approximately 128. The district is very favourably situated with regard to the quality and quantity of its water supply.

The provision of a mains supply to the Parish of Treales Roseacre and Wharles was completed during the year, and it is anticipated that most of the farms and dwellings in the Parish will eventually be connected to the new mains.

The number of new supplies to dwelling houses authorised by the Water Board was 122, and to agricultural premises 3.

#### HOUSING.

(A) STATISTICS.		
Number of new houses erected during the year	•••	103
(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b)):—		
(i) By the Local Authority		76
(ii) By other Local Authorities	•••	Nil
(iii) By other bodies or persons		27

ssistance under the Housing Acts:—	(b)
Local Authority (included under	
76	
ner bodies (included under (a) (iii)) 17	
ling-houses during the year:—	Inspec
mber of dwelling-houses inspected for g defects (under Public Health or g Acts) 70	(1)
of inspections made for the purpose 156	(
welling-houses found to be in a state gerous or injurious to health as to be or human habitation 5	(2)
dwelling-houses (exclusive of those do not to under the preceding sub-head) not to be in all respects reasonably fit man habitation 14	(3)
s during the year without service of	Remed
	forn
welling-houses rendered fit in con- of informal action by the Local or their officers 56	N
tory powers during the year :—	Action
under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the t 1936 Nil.	(a)
per of dwelling-houses in respect of h notices were served requiring repairs 2	

	(2)	rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
		(a) By owners	Nil.
		(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil.
		owners	1111.
(b)	Procee	edings under the Public Health Acts:	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	I
	( )		1
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—	
		(a) By owners	I
		(b) By Local Authority in default of	
		owners	Nil.
(c)		dings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing 936:—	
	(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	2
	(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
(d)	Procee 1936 :	edings under Section 12 of the Housing Act	
	(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
	(2)	Number in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
		THE VILLE DUCH I CHURCHUL HE	. 4111.

## Housing Act 1936. Part IV.—Overcrowding:—

- (a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... No recent Survey.
  - (2) Number of new cases reported during year... ... Nil.

Your obedient Servant,
H. GRAHAM, M.S.I A, C.R.S.I.,

Sanitary Inspector.







